

ON SOLID GROUND FY2020 BUDGET PRIORITIES



HOMEBASE (7004-0108)

FY20 REQUEST: \$28 MILLION & Language change

HomeBASE offers families an alternative to emergency shelter by providing stabilization services and up to \$10,000 in financial assistance. These funds will help prevent families from becoming homeless by supporting the one-time costs for rent, utilities, security deposits, and other expenses that would allow them to stay in their homes, move, or live with another family. In addition to the funds, we also request the language changes that:

- Allow Households to access RAFT assistance, if eligible, to stabilize their housing
- Allow for families to renew HomeBASE without having to go through the eviction process if further assistance can stabilize the tenancy

This will help achieve the program's goal of ensuring housing stability and reducing the cliff effects.

MASS. RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM (MRVP) (7004-9024)

FY20 REQUEST: \$130 MILLION

MRVP is the most effective tool to immediately help people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness find homes they can afford by providing a combination of project-based and mobile rental vouchers. \$130 million will increase the number of new vouchers available, help preserve affordable housing developments, and make programmatic fixes, including raising the fair market rent standard, that will make vouchers more usable and reduce lengthy lease-up times.

LEARN TO EARN (7002-1080)

FY20 REQUEST: \$1 MILLION

This program will provide credentials and employment for unemployed and underemployed individuals in occupations in high demand fields through partnerships between public agencies, businesses, community-based organizations, and career centers. Increased funding will help support the program and its evaluation for impact and improvement thus providing a path for economic mobility for families.

CHILDCARE RESERVE FUND (3000-1042)

FY20 REQUEST: \$20 MILLION

The Childcare Reserve Funds go towards the reimbursement rates that programs (center based and family child care administration) receive to serve children via child care subsidies. \$20 million in funding for childcare support will result in better childcare services for families with extremely low income. Investing to improve support services like childcare allows parents allot more time to professional development thus helping families move forward on the path of economic mobility.

PROGRAM	FY20 REQUEST
HomeBASE	\$28,000,000
Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)	\$130,000,000
Child-Care Reserve Fund	\$20,000,000
Learn to Earn	\$1,000,000
Headstart funding	\$12,000,000
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	50% of the Federal EITC
Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	Language change
Emergency Assistance	Language change

For more information, contact Eric Shupin, Director of Public Policy at Citizens' Housing & Planning Association, at eshupin@chapa.org or 617-682-9712

HEADSTART PROGRAMS (3000-5000)

FY20 REQUEST: \$12 MILLION

The Head Start program is a nationally funded program that promotes school readiness through quality early education and services like health, mental health, nutrition, social services, and parent involvement. State funding of \$12 million would support salaries of early educators and strengthen the program to best prepare children for school. Strengthening early education for children gives them opportunities for economic mobility in life.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) (OUTSIDE SECTION)

FY20 REQUEST: 50% OF FEDERAL EITC

The state EITC is an effective and efficient tax credit that improves health, rewards work, increases economic mobility, and reduces inequality. We recommend an increase from 23 percent to 50 percent of the value of the federal EITC for all eligible recipients, making Massachusetts the leader in having the highest rate in the country.

TRANSITIONAL AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (TAFDC) (4403-2000)

FY20 REQUEST: Language change

Policy reforms to the TAFDC benefits will help:

- *Simplify and streamline program rules*
- *Increase asset limits and requirements for working families to better incentivize and support employment and employment related activities*

The proposed reform to TAFDC will improve access to TAFDC program and help mitigate cliff effects.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA) (7004-0101)

FY20 REQUEST: Language change

Policy reforms to the TAFDC benefits will help:

- *Lessen EA Cliff and also to allow families in shelter to earn money, increase work experience, pay off debt*
- *Clarify that the loss of HomeBASE qualifies as a loss of income for the purpose of shelter eligibility*
- *Allow data reporting requirements on number of children in the system*